

# THE COMMUNITY FORESTER

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DNRC COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE MONTANA COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

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SUMMER 2002

## ARBOR DAY GRANTS AWARDED TO SIXTY COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECTS

**T**he Arbor Day Grant Program offered by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation awarded 60 grants of \$150 each this spring for a total of \$9000. This is nearly double the number of grants awarded in 2001.

The grant program is designed to promote the observance of Arbor Day in Montana. Grants are used to purchase trees, refreshments, Arbor Day t-shirts, brochures or other items to enhance celebrations and increase awareness of trees and Arbor Day in Montana communities.

Communities that received funding in 2002 include Belgrade, Big Timber, Billings, Bozeman, Broadus, Browning, Butte-Silver Bow, Cascade, Choteau, Conrad, Culbertson, Cut Bank, Deer Lodge, Drummond, Eureka, Fairfield, Fairview, Forsyth, Fort Benton, Froid, Glendive, Hardin, Havre, Hobson, Hot Springs, Judith Gap, Kalispell, Lame Deer, Libby, Livingston, Manhattan, Medicine Lake, Min-



Ronan students learn how to properly plant a tree! Photo: Mark Lennon

eral-Superior, Missoula, Opheim, Pablo, Plains, Polson, Red Lodge, Ronan, Seeley Lake, Sheridan, St. Ignatius, Stanford, Three Forks, Troy, Twin Bridges, Valier, Virginia City, Walkerville, West Yellowstone, Whitefish, Whitehall and Winnett.

All communities planning to celebrate Arbor Day are eligible to apply. Applications for the 2003 Arbor Day Grant Program will be available in February.

Congratulations! To see more photos of Arbor Day Celebrations in Montana...go to page 3!

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**ARBOR DAY 2002!**  
Upper left: Whitehall high school students help plant a spruce tree.  
Lower left: The Treeture Creature®, Sprig makes an appearance in Havre.

Photos by Mark Lennon

# COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM UPDATE

## WESTERN REGION

### UPDATE

Mark Lennon

**A**rbor Day 2002 was a rousing success around Western Montana this spring. Congratulations to the 45 grant recipients. Additional congratulations go out to the ten communities in Montana that declared Arbor Day for the first time including Belgrade, Browning, Cascade, Choteau, Conrad, Hobson, St. Ignatius, Troy, Virginia City, Walker-ville and West Yellowstone.

Twenty communities in the Western Region received Tree City USA recognition from the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA Program. And 8 of the twenty received Growth Awards. Congratulations to Ronan and Hamilton, both of which were newly designated Tree City USA's and received \$500 grants.

There were several tree planting projects reported including numerous plantings by Growing Friends of Helena; 15 newly planted trees at Eureka's Riverside Park; and both Eureka and Troy started new sit-out nurseries using grow bags that will provide trees for future Arbor Day celebrations.

Larry Maginnis, City Forester of Missoula and Jon Paul Paulsen of Asplundh Tree Expert Company procured an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Exam in Missoula



in June. This new ISA certification exam consists of two parts (written and skills) which requires participants to demonstrate knowledge and skills in tree care.

Congratulations to Keith Lukas of Missoula, Harvey Carlsmith of Clinton, Greg Caputo of Whitefish and Ron Nelson of Livingston, all of which successfully completed the ISA Certified Arborist Exam.

Weather made a lot of news this spring and summer in western Montana. The late spring snows, forest fires and high winds wreaked havoc on many towns.

Neihart and St. Regis experienced micro-burst winds that toppled trees, downed utilities and caused a lot of damage to homes and businesses. Some communities were slow to respond after these disasters due to lack of prior planning. Prior planning helps communities to reduce the severity of natural disasters and improves response and recovery processes. Copies of the publication, "Storms Over the Urban Forest" are available for those interested in learning more about the

planning process. This publication provides a reference of up-to-date procedures in planning for and responding to natural disasters. If you are interested in a copy, please call 406-883-5599.

## EASTERN REGION

### UPDATE

Jeff Roe

**F**ifteen communities in Eastern Montana received Arbor Day Grants this spring (see list of grant recipients on Page 1). Each community utilized the funds to plant trees and increase awareness of community forestry and its benefits.

Over 2200 students and teachers in 31 Eastern Montana schools received community forestry programs this spring.

Additionally, tree care workshops were held in Broadus, Denton, Forsyth, Glasgow, Hardin, Harlowton, Judith Gap, Poplar, Red Lodge, Roundup and Winnett. Each workshop covered a variety of topics.

If you would like to discuss workshops in your area, contact me at 406-232-2034.



## FEATURED COMMUNITY

## RED LODGE, MONTANA

**T**ravel southwest of Billings on US Highway 212 and you enter into Red Lodge, Montana—gateway to Yellowstone National Park.

Nestled in the valley between the beautiful Beartooth Mountain Range and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Red Lodge is lucky to be surrounded by one of the most ecologically diverse forests in the Northern Region. With its mountains full of pine, spruce fir trees and abundant wildlife,

one might think that Red Lodge would be content with the its surrounding beauty.... think again. Some citizens want to enjoy the benefits that trees provide in the surrounding high alpine country in their own valley community.

With that in mind, Red Lodge is working to create and improve beautiful natural spaces and parks within its municipal boundaries.

The Beta Omicron Garden Club and the Red Lodge Tree Board are working on their city parks and green spaces to help bring awareness of community forestry to their town.

*"The walk was a huge success... we raised over \$500!"*  
Dinorah Hampton

This past May, the Red Lodge groups held their 1st Annual Arbor Day Walk which consisted of a 1.8 mile walk starting

at Depot Park and continuing on to the parks and green spaces throughout town. The Arbor Day Walk culminated at Riverside Park with an awards ceremony and prize drawings. The Walk was sponsored by Crazy Creek, Subway, artists and other local

businesses.

According to Dinorah Hampton, Arbor Day Walk organizer, "The walk was a huge success in its first year. It surpassed all goals that Beta Omicron had set. We raised over \$500! The funds were used to plant a 14 foot blue spruce at Skate Board Park. This new tree will provide lots of shade for the youth that use the facility."

If you would like your community forestry project or Arbor Day activities featured in THE COMMUNITY FORESTER newsletter, send a copy of the article (250 words or less) to the DNRC, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3199 or an electronic copy to [kgundale@mt.us](mailto:kgundale@mt.us) at the Community Forestry Program Office.

## Montana Arbor Day Celebrations 2002!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 12-14**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER ISA ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP**

Fort Collins, CO

Contact: Diane Page at 303-756-1815

**SEPTEMBER 21-24**

**GRASSROOTS SUMMIT 2002**

**BUILDING A UNITED CONSTITUENCY FOR  
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

University Park Marriott Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT

Contact: Jerri LaHaie at 706-769-3127

([urbanforestry@prodigy.net](mailto:urbanforestry@prodigy.net))

or Alice Ewen Walker at 301-699-2203

([alice@actrees.org](mailto:alice@actrees.org))

**SEPTEMBER 26-28**

**COMMUNITY FORESTRY AT ITS BEST**

Arbor Day Farm, Lied Conference Center,  
Nebraska City, NE

Contact [www.arborday.com](http://www.arborday.com) or the DNRC Community Forestry Program Office at 406-542-4284

**OCTOBER 9-11**

**MONTANA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS  
71ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Copper King, Butte, MT

Contact: Alec Hansen at 406-442-8768

[www.mlct.org](http://www.mlct.org)

# MONTANA DNRC COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS NEW WEBSITE!

The Community Forestry Program is pleased to announce that its new website is up and running with a cornucopia of new information for travelers on the information superhighway. Visit us at...

[www.dnrc.state.mt.us/forestry/  
CommunityForestryManagement](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/forestry/CommunityForestryManagement)

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

for the

**Urban Wildlife Management  
National Conference**

**May 5-7, 2003**

in cooperation with Urban Wildlife Working Group, The Wildlife Society, Humane Society of the United States, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Branch of Habitat Restoration

- Arbor Day Farm • Lied Conference Center •
- Nebraska City, Nebraska •

If you would like to submit a proposal to present at the **2003 Urban Wildlife Management National Conference**, contact the Community Forestry Program Office at 406-542-4284 for a Presentation Proposal Form.

For registration information, contact National Arbor Day Conference Services at (402)474-5655, or e-mail at [conferences@arborday.org](mailto:conferences@arborday.org)



**DO YOU HAVE A  
COMMUNITY FORESTRY  
EVENT THAT YOU  
WOULD LIKE  
PUBLICIZED ?**

Contact the Montana Community Forestry  
Program Office at 406-542-4284!

# MONTANA TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES

Anaconda	8 years	Havre	12 years	Ronan	
Billings	18 years	Helena	16 years	Roundup	10 years
Bozeman	8 years	Judith Gap	7 years	Shelby	2 years
Broadus	3 years	Kalispell	15 years	Sheridan	2 years
Butte-Silver Bow	7 years	Libby	9 years	Sidney	
Fort Benton	5 years	Malmstrom AFB	9 years	Twin Bridges	2 years
Great Falls	21 years	Manhattan	7 years	Whitefish	7 years
Hamilton		Missoula	14 years	Whitehall	10 years
Hardin	9 years	Polson	11 years	<b>Want more information? Call us at 542-4284 or visit our website at <a href="http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/Forestry/CommunityForestryManagement">www.dnrc.state.mt.us/Forestry/CommunityForestryManagement</a></b>	
Harlowton	15 years	Red Lodge	3 years		

GROWING FRIENDS OF HELENA PRESENTS...

## *Putting Down Roots:*

## *Selecting the Right Tree for your Helena Home*

A publication providing information on tree foliage and features, appropriate growing conditions and locations throughout the Helena area where particular species may be seen.

To find out how to obtain your copy, contact:  
 Growing Friends of Helena, P.O. Box 709, Helena, MT 59624  
 (406) 444-6761

## **Don't Let this Happen to Your Trees!**

**Learn  
 Why  
 TOPPING  
 Hurts  
 Trees!!**



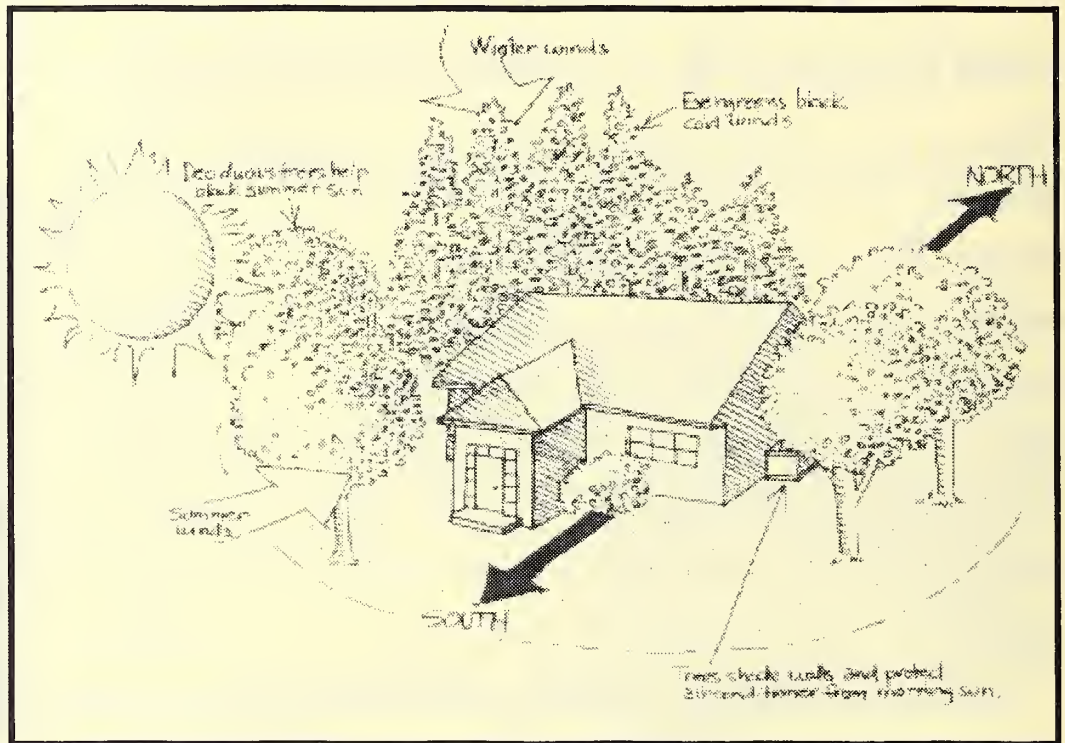
For more information go to the 'Tree Care Information' page on the Montana Community Forestry webpage at [www.dnrc.state.mt.us](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us)

## WHERE TO PLANT TREES

**P**lanting trees around your home will conserve energy and lower the cost of utility bills.

Three well-placed deciduous (leaf-losing) trees on the east, south, and west sides of a home will create considerable shade from summer sun and may lower cooling costs in many homes that rely upon cooling systems.

In addition to saving money, this conservation of energy directly translates to less carbon dioxide produced at the generating plant that serves your house. Trees can also produce savings in cold weather. Staggered rows of evergreen trees on the northwest side of the house (or the side with prevailing winter winds) will block harsh winds and lower heating costs.



Graphics and information courtesy of © AMERICAN FORESTS. To learn more, visit [americanforests.org](http://americanforests.org)

## URBAN SPRAWL & URBAN TREES

**KNOW YOUR RESOURCE:** Tree canopy cover is a proven indicator of community health and sustainability. What is your community's coverage? Utilizing programs like American Forests' CITYgreen software can help. Programs like these measure community tree cover and calculate the dollar value of the environmental services it provides.

**SET GOALS:** Setting tree canopy goals for regions and communities is essential. Research by American Forests indicates that most U.S. communities should strive for an overall tree canopy coverage of 40 percent (30 percent in the arid Southwest) to ensure a healthy ecosystem and quality of life. While local conditions vary, it is recommended to achieve the 40 percent average with: 15 percent coverage in downtown and industrial areas, 25 percent in urban residential and light commercial areas, and 50 percent in suburban residential areas.

**GET ORGANIZED:** Build coalitions of civic organizations and government institutions to develop and promote your tree canopy goals. Develop specific plans with roles for neighborhoods, and civic and business organizations. Contact American Forests at [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org) to learn how other communities are achieving their tree cover goals.

**MAKE POLICY:** Insist that policymakers account for the costs and benefits of trees when planning development. Remind them that voters pay for tree loss in the form of increased energy consumption, etc. Develop community programs that protect existing trees and encourage significant new plantings with an emphasis on long-term funding and technical assistance to citizen groups. Make canopy coverage analysis a part of your area's regular environmental inventory.

**TAKE ACTION:** Most communities will need to plant new trees to reach an average 40 percent tree canopy cover. Organizations like American Forests can help! Contact [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org) to learn how!

Information courtesy of © AMERICAN FORESTS. To learn more, visit [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)

## NORWAY MAPLE (*ACER PLATANOIDES*)

Norway maple, *Acer platanoides* (plat-an-NOY-deez) is native to Europe and west Asia, however it is widely planted throughout North American cities because of its ideal characteristics as a shade and street tree.



This beautiful, broadly oval to round-headed tree grows to fifty or more feet tall and wide at a medium growth rate (10-15" per year). Norway maples have showy yellow-green flowers that cover the tree before its dark, lustrous leaves emerge in spring. Leaves are 4" to 7" long with five sharply pointed lobes that turn yellow in late fall.

Maples have samaras or winged seeds. The Norway maple seeds are 1 1/2" to 2" long, very abundant and quick to germinate which calls for immediate cleanup otherwise weeding of seedlings is required.

When planting a Norway maple, it is ideal to choose a site with full sun to light shade on well-drained soil. However, this species will also tolerate poorly drained, compacted soils such as those found in urban areas.

Additionally, this species is highly utilized in urban areas because it is easily transplanted; well adapted to extremely cold, windy, and/or drought ridden regions; and is highly tolerant of air pollution.

However, there are several problems associated with this species. Shallow root systems can rob garden plants of nutrients and moisture. Shade created by the dense canopy of this tree creates unsuitable growing conditions for other species beneath the tree. And most importantly, this species has demonstrated the ability to escape from cultivation and naturalize in minimally managed areas. In areas where invasion of natural areas is occurring, a different species should be chosen or a seedless form of Norway maple should be planted.

### Sources:

- Johnsen, Jan & Fech, John C. 1999. *Ortho's All About Trees*. Meredith books: Des Moines, Iowa.
- National Audubon Society Field Guide to Trees: Western Region. 1980.
- University of Connecticut Plant Database if Trees, Shrubs and Vines. <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/index.html>. Visited July 2002.
- Yoth, Susan A. 2001. *Taylor's Guide to Trees*. Houghton Mifflin Co: Boston.



## GRANTS FOR NEW TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES

The Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Community Forestry Program is offering \$500 grants for communities that become newly designated Tree City USA communities or whose designation has lapsed for two or more years.

This grant may be used for a variety of planting projects and is designed to assist communities with their community forestry projects and promote and reward communities for their participation in the Tree City USA program. To become designated communities must:

1. Set up a Tree Board
2. Write a Tree Ordinance
3. Celebrate Arbor Day
4. Spend \$2 per capita on their community forestry program



To qualify for this grant program, a community must achieve Tree City USA status as determined by the Na-

tional Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree City USA Application must be submitted to the Montana Community Forestry Program Office by **DECEMBER 31, 2002**.

Complete the grant application (available upon request). The grant requires a 35% match (\$175.00) with cash or in-kind contributions.

For information on the Tree City USA program or assistance with attaining this designation for your community, please contact:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Montana Community Forestry Program  
2705 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804-3199  
Phone: 406-542-4284  
[www.dnrc.state.mt.us/Forestry/CommunityForestry](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/Forestry/CommunityForestry)  
- or -

The National Arbor Day Foundation at  
[www.arborday.org!](http://www.arborday.org!)

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2705 SPURGIN ROAD  
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Please direct comments regarding the content of this publication to the Editor.

Persons with disabilities who need an alternative, accessible format of this document should contact the DNRC Community Forestry Program, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3199. Phone 542-4284 or Fax 542-4203.

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